

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 19-32, 36, 38-44, 48-51, and 61-63 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1-18, 33-35, 52-60, 64-97 and 99-108 have been withdrawn from further consideration. Claims 37, 45-47 and 98 have been cancelled.

Claim 26 stands objected to due to an informality. This objection is believed to be overcome.

Claim 98 stands rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hendrick et al. US Patent 3,291,308.

Claims 19, 24, and 26-32 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Baker US Patent 4,627,118.

Claims 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hansen et al. US Patent 6,214,214 B1.

Claims 21-26 and 61-63 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansen et al in view of Magorien et al. US Patent 3,726,063.

Claim 36 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansen et al. in view of Reid US Patent 3,923,663.

Claims 37-39 and 45 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansen et al. in view of Racine US Patent 6,443,312 B1.

Claims 46-51 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansen et al. in view of Racine US Patent 6,443,312 B1.

Claim 40 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansen et al. in view of Racine US Patent 6,443,312 B1.

Claim 19 stands rejected under 102(b) as anticipated by Magorien et al. US Patent 3,726,063.

Claims 37 and 41-44 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Magorien et al. US Patent 3,726,063 in view of Racine US Patent 6,443,312 B1.

The amended claim set provided herewith includes amended independent claim 19 which is based on a combination of original claims 19, 37, 45, 46 and 47. Furthermore, claim 19 has been amended to recite that "a gap is provided between the tubular member and the rotatable member configured to allow cleaning fluid to escape and maintain the bearing surfaces free of particulates". Basis for this amendment is to be found, for example, in at least paragraphs [0045], [0046], [0069] to [0072] and [0140] to [0142] of the published application.

At paragraphs 28 to 35 of the Office Action, the Examiner considers that dependent claims 45 to 47 are unpatentable over Hansen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,214,214 B1) in view of Racine (U.S. Patent No. 6,443,312). Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 19 is now patentable over this combination of documents.

Specifically, Racine discloses a self-cleaning filter 10 comprising an axially movable piston 48 provided within a cylindrical screen 14. The piston 48 sealingly slides along the inner surface of screen 4 and rakes and pushes any debris in screen 14 towards a corresponding end of the cylinder. A second embodiment

of the piston 48' shown in Figures 9 and 10 comprises a plunger 72 made of a central rod 72c having opposite conical seats 72a, 72b. The plunger 72 is movable axially in a channel 74 provided centrally in piston 48' so as to act as a valve. Two radial channels 76 are provided to allow liquid to flow from the axial channel 74 to a peripheral groove 77 formed on the outside of the piston 48' by ribs 68, 70. As illustrated in Figure 10, the plunger 72 is displaced in response to the pressure differential across the piston 48' to allow liquid to enter the radial channels 76 only from one side of the piston 48' whilst the other side is sealed.

In contrast to the arrangement of Racine, the claimed invention recites that the filtration system comprises a filter cleaning apparatus configured to project a cleaning liquid supplied by a separate dedicated pump onto the filter. The filter cleaning apparatus is in the form of a rotatable member mounted on a tubular member having at least one side-opening configured to supply cleaning liquid. Moreover, the claimed invention requires that a gap is provided between the tubular member and the rotatable member configured to allow cleaning fluid to escape and maintain the bearing surfaces free of particulates. Applicant submits that the claimed arrangement differs from the proposed combination of Hansen and Racine.

Racine discloses an arrangement whereby the plunger 72 forms a seal with the piston 48' to prevent the cleaning fluid escaping. If this seal was not maintained, the pressure differential across the piston 48' would be reduced and the piston 48' would cease to reciprocate within the screen 14. Thus, the piston 48' would not function and the screen 14 would not be cleaned. Applicant submits, therefore, that the skilled person is taught directly away from modifying the arrangement of Racine to arrive at the claimed invention whereby a gap is maintained to allow cleaning fluid to escape.

In the light of the above, Applicant submits that amended independent claim 19 filed herewith is patentable over the prior art of record.

All remaining dependent claims are also believed to be allowable of the cited prior art for at least the above reasons.

A two (2) month Extension of Time along with the requisite fee is enclosed. No additional fees are believed to be due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to debit Deposit Account 50-5083 should

any fees be due. If the Examiner has any further issues, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve these matters by phone where possible.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Klinger', with a stylized, cursive script.

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